

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

1 UNI TED STATES DI STRI CT COURT
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4 UNI TED STATES OF AMERI CA, Criminal No. : 0:07-cr-00315
5 Plaintiff, TRANSCRI PT
6 vs. OF
7 TYRONE SHADALE OAKS, PROCEEDI NGs
8 Defendant. (MOTI ONS HEARI NG)
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19 CALIFORNIA CSR NO. : 8674
20 ILLINOIS CSR NO. : 084-004202
21 IOWA CSR NO. : 495
22 RMR NO. : 065111
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APPEARANCES

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY, 300 South
Fourth Street, Suite 600, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415, by
ERIKA R. MOZANGUE, Assistant United States Attorney, appeared
as counsel on behalf of Plaintiff.

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LAW OFFICES OF THOMAS H. SHIAH, 247 Third
Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415, by THOMAS H.
SHIAH, Attorney at Law, appeared as counsel on behalf of
Defendant.

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1 THE COURT: Call this matter.

2 CALENDAR CLERK: United States of America

3 versus Tyrone Shadale Oaks, Criminal Case Number 07-cr-315.

4 Counsel, please state your appearances for the
5 record.

6 MS. MOZANGUE: Erika Mozangue appearing for the
7 United States.

8 THE COURT: Good morning.

9 MS. MOZANGUE: Good morning.

10 MR. SHIAH: Good morning, your Honor. Tom
11 Shah on behalf of Mr. Oaks, who is obviously seated next to
12 me.

13 THE COURT: Good morning.

14 THE DEFENDANT: Good morning, sir.

15 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Shah, bring your
16 motion.

17 MR. SHIAH: First off, your Honor, thank you
18 for taking this on short notice. You know that I called the
19 Court yesterday. This is a matter that's important to us, so
20 I have filed a motion, which is pretty straightforward and
21 pretty short. What we are requesting at this juncture, given
22 the fact that trial is scheduled for Monday, February 25th,
23 is disclosure of Jencks material. The material that I'm
24 talking about specifically are statements of government
25 witnesses. In this particular case, it's my understanding

1 there are at least four people involved, two of whom were
2 with Mr. Oaks on the night of his arrest. These are people
3 we have not been able to find and/or talk to. My
4 investigator is here and she can verify that. But as an
5 officer of the court, we've been trying to locate them for a
6 month and we have not been successful. The other two I'd put
7 in the category of jailhouse witnesses. I don't know who
8 they are -- I mean, I know who they are now, they're listed
9 on the witness list -- and those people supposedly have
10 statements about my client. Now, as I told you yesterday
11 informally -- and I'll repeat it for the record today -- we
12 were working together, Ms. Mozangue and myself, in the course
13 of trial preparation. We had an informal understanding that
14 I would receive the Jencks material, I believe, Wednesday of
15 this week, which would be February 13th. I got back in town
16 that night, it had not arrived in my office yet. I had an
17 opportunity to speak with her yesterday, which would be the
18 14th, and I was advised then, for the first time, that she
19 had concerns about turning over this material at this
20 juncture. She did recognize that she told me it was coming,
21 but like everybody else, she's entitled to change her mind.
22 She said that she had concerns, and I believe the concerns
23 are safety for these particular individuals. It had nothing
24 to do with the merits of the particular case. It was just a
25 question -- she said, "I don't want to turn this over because

1 I have security issues." There is this security concern that
2 has permeated my representation of Mr. Oaks. All we have
3 heard are anecdotal statements about things that are
4 supposedly out there -- about possible threats, about
5 possible security things. I have not seen anything in
6 writing. I have not seen any other evidence. It's just
7 people telling me, "Look, we have concerns." In effect --
8 not in effect -- in actuality, he was actually put in deep
9 segregation at the Sherburne County facility. I know some of
10 these issues were investigated by the Marshal's office. As I
11 said, I've been in contact with Mr. Steve -- I believe it's
12 Swensen -- about this. They conducted an investigation. No
13 charges have been brought. He was back in general
14 population, where he sits today. So my understanding, at
15 least at this juncture, if there had been some concerns, they
16 have been investigated and it's been resolved. So I'm not
17 sure what the government's talking about. Now, I went back
18 and I looked at the law; sometimes that's a good thing,
19 sometimes that's a bad thing, especially when you deal with
20 Jencks, which is what we are. I believe it's 18 USC 3500.
21 And I have to say that I think I am moving upstream in terms
22 of my request for early disclosure. I read the cases last
23 night. I mean, it says point blank -- kind of like the old
24 days -- and I tried to explain this to Mr. Oaks -- that push
25 comes to shove, I'm not even entitled to it until after the

1 person leaves the box, if we really push it to the last -- I
2 guess the nth degree. So I'm not going to say that I have a
3 strong legal basis in the Jencks case for early disclosure,
4 except for one thing. If the --

5 THE COURT: You have no basis.

6 MR. SHIAH: Well, I still think I have a bit of
7 a case, especially where there's going to be prejudice. If,
8 in fact -- when she decides she wants to disclose it -- which
9 I believe is now three days before trial -- that we may be
10 prejudiced. And the problem is we can't find these people.
11 We cannot find these people. So we're not at an advantage
12 where we can go out and interview them and talk to them.
13 They have this information. They said they were going to
14 give it to me. I'm getting ready to go to trial and now they
15 say they don't want to give it to me. So I guess what I'm --
16 I wanted you to expedite it. And I think what they've agreed
17 to, if I read their papers correctly, is they're willing to
18 give it to me Friday. I'm assuming that would be Friday of
19 next week, which would be the 21st (sic). I'd like to get it
20 earlier. Because I anticipate, once I get it, I may have to
21 ask for a continuance. That's the last thing I put in my
22 motion.

23 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

24 MS. MOZANGUE: Your Honor, the government does
25 oppose Mr. Shi ah's motion, to the extent that it seeks

1 immediate disclosure of Jencks material. The basis for our
2 motion -- we had four bases for opposing that motion. First
3 of all, there was never a formal motion made for Jencks
4 material. This case was initially handled by Manny Atwal of
5 the public defender's office. We went through a motions
6 hearing, we went through a submission of motions. She never
7 filed a Jencks motion. I did speak to Mr. Shi ah, as he
8 represented to the Court. He inquired as to Jencks material.
9 I did say to him that I would provide to him the Jencks
10 material. After I spoke to him, I went back and looked at
11 the file. I realized that the statements I thought he was
12 referring to had already been given to him. After that
13 conversation, my investigator went out and located additional
14 witnesses on this case who expressed to my investigator that
15 they are quite fearful of coming into court and having to
16 testify against the defendant. And, so, for those reasons, I
17 then told Mr. Shi ah that I had great concerns about releasing
18 the additional Jencks material. Moreover, your Honor, there
19 is no rule of law that would obligate the government to turn
20 over Jencks material -- under Rule 26.2 of the Criminal
21 Procedure, we are not obligated to turn over Jencks material
22 until after the witness has testified.

23 I have represented to the Court previously that
24 I had reason to believe that this defendant has made threats
25 against both government witnesses in this case to do them

1 harm, as well as other interested parties in this case. And
2 for those reasons, the government feels strongly that there
3 is a security issue in this case. And for the protection of
4 the government witnesses, as well as other interested
5 parties, we do not wish to disclose those Jencks materials at
6 this time.

7 I've also been informed that the defendant is
8 now in the general population at the Sherburne County Jail.
9 I've also been informed that he has phone privileges. And
10 with that said, we feel that if he wants to again try to
11 threaten one of the witnesses or try to communicate to
12 someone to do something to one of those witnesses, he now has
13 the capability to do these things. And, so, we feel strongly
14 that he does pose a threat to do harm to government witnesses
15 in this case.

16 Whatever ruling the Court makes in this case,
17 we would ask that the defense also be given the same ruling.
18 I've received their witness list and they have three
19 witnesses on their witness list who I have not received any
20 type of Jencks materials from them. We are requesting that
21 we be given the three days to -- three days prior to trial to
22 turn over our Jencks material to the defense counsel and we
23 would ask that the Court assign them the same order.

24 MR. SHIAH: Judge, can I just add one thing --
25 and this has to do with the legal argument -- this has to do

1 with that point about not requesting the information. I went
2 back and I looked at the pretrial motion. And we have
3 requested statements, there was a generic request for
4 co-defendants, unindicted coconspirators. And in this
5 particular case, at least as it relates to one individual,
6 Lisa Broadway, she was one of the individuals that was
7 arrested that night, when all four of these people were
8 starting out as a probable cause narcotics case. So to the
9 extent that there's a statement there of an unindicted
10 coconspirator or an unindicted defendant, I think that I
11 should be entitled to that, at a minimum.

12 MS. MOZANGUE: Your Honor, for the record, as
13 of yet, we do not have a statement from Lisa Broadway.

14 MR. SHIAH: Well, okay.

15 THE COURT: All right. Anything further from
16 the government?

17 MS. MOZANGUE: No, your Honor. Thank you.

18 MR. SHIAH: Your Honor, my client wants to
19 just -- excuse me one second, Judge.

20 My client wanted me to point out that with
21 respect to confidentiality, he knows who these people are and
22 we're comfortable telling the Court that. It's not a
23 surprise. We have a witness list. And he's not threatened
24 anybody, nor does he intend to. So it's not a question of
25 all of a sudden you're going to give us something and now we

1 have the Holy Grail of the identification. All we want is
2 the substance of what they said so we can prepare for trial.

3 THE COURT: Okay. All right. The government
4 has submitted to the Court that they will be giving the
5 Jencks material to -- before I do my ruling here, Mr. Shi ah,
6 do you want to be heard on turning over your material to the
7 government?

8 MR. SHI AH: I'll abide by the three days.

9 THE COURT: All right. The government has
10 agreed to submit to the Court by -- in answer to defendant's
11 pretrial motion, that they will turn over the Jencks material
12 three days before trial so as not to delay any progress of
13 the trial, so long as the defendant agrees to do the same.
14 The defendant has, on the record, agreed to do the same. So
15 the Court will order that both the government and the defense
16 three days prior to trial turn over the Jencks material of
17 their witnesses to each other. And that we will have a trial
18 on the date that has been set. Anything further? And,
19 Mr. Shi ah, whether or not the Jencks material is turned over
20 to you -- cutting to your argument, you know who the
21 witnesses are. You've told me that your client knows who
22 they are. So whether or not you have the Jencks material or
23 not, whether or not you find them or not, is not going to
24 cause this Court to continue the trial.

25 MR. SHI AH: If the government --

1 THE COURT: You've just told me that there's no
2 surprises.

3 MR. SHI AH: No. There's definitely --

4 THE COURT: You said there's no surprises that
5 -- what they may say and you agree with that.

6 MR. SHIAH: Well, that's the surprise. The
7 identity is not the issue, it's what these people are going
8 to say. And if we can't find them to talk to them --

9 THE COURT: That's not a surprise, either.

10 MR. SHIAH: I'll accept that. The one thing --
11 as long as we're here today, Judge, what I'm extremely
12 concerned about -- I mean, just kind of like a heads up --
13 I'm assuming that when we come back on the 25th for trial --
14 and this is not in the way of a motion -- it probably will be
15 a motion in limine -- I'm not going to have to deal with
16 these threat issues in the course of the trial. Because if
17 that's the case, and if the government intends in any manner,
18 shape or form to get into any possible threats of my client
19 relating to government witnesses, government personnel or
20 anything -- if it's part of the case, then I need to see what
21 it is they have. Because right now, I have nothing. So I
22 just want to put that on the table. I'm assuming that's not
23 going to be part of the case we're trying, which is a felon
24 in possession of a firearm.

25 THE COURT: Well, as far as I know, this is a

1 felon in possession of a firearm case.

2 MR. SHIAH: Fair enough.

3 THE COURT: All right. Anything further?

4 MR. SHIAH: No, sir.

5 MS. MOZANGUE: Not from the government, your
6 Honor.

7 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

8 CALENDAR CLERK: All rise.

9 (Court stood in recess at approximately 9:45
10 a.m., on February 15th, 2008).

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1 STATE OF MINNESOTA)

2)ss.

3 COUNTY OF HENNEPIN)

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5 I, Ronald J. Moen, CSR, RMR, and a Notary Public in
6 and for the County of Hennepin, in the State of Minnesota, do
hereby certify:

7 That the said proceeding was taken before me as a CSR,
RMR, and a Notary Public at the said time and place and was
8 taken down in shorthand writing by me;

9 That said proceeding was thereafter under my direction
10 transcribed into computer-assisted transcription, and that
the foregoing transcript constitutes a full, true and correct
report of the transcript of proceedings which then and there
took place;

11 That I am a disinterested third person to the said
12 action;

13 That the cost of the original has been charged to the
14 party who ordered the transcript of proceedings, and that all
parties who ordered copies have been charged at the same rate
15 for such copies.

16 That I reported pages 1 through 13.

17 IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereto subscribed my hand
this 2nd day of June, 2009.

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19 s/Ronald J. Moen
RONALD J. MOEN,
20 CSR, RMR

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